



HeronBridge
COLLEGE

HeadsUP[^]

Head's Newsletter

Dear Parents

We are clearly at the end of the second term and, no doubt, all looking forward to the break in August. However, before that happens, I would like to share some important arrangements, events, and reports with you.

Academic Reports and Parents Evenings

The academic reports for this past term, an examination term, will be published tomorrow. They will be available on Moodle immediately and for collection next week from Wednesday onwards (after the long weekend). We are pleased generally with the results, especially regarding the Grade 12 Preliminary Examinations. There are of course areas for improvement in all Grades and that will be the teachers' focus next term.

We invite all parents to attend the Parent Evenings scheduled early in September, Thursday 8th and Tuesday 13th. Booking forms are distributed today as an attachment to this newsletter and are also on the School Communicator. Bookings may be made online via the College website (www.heronbridgecollege.co.za) or by handing in forms immediately next term. These evenings provide an opportunity for parents to discuss their particular children's progress with the teachers and so we encourage all to take advantage of them.

The Past Term

This has been one of the best winter terms we have ever had. The academic programme has been strong and the co-curricular activities have been simply outstanding. I run the risk of being accused of favouritism, but there have been highlights for me.

The Major Production, Hairspray, was all we had hoped for and then some! I come from schools with strong drama traditions but am able to say honestly this was *the* best school production I have seen in 30 odd years of teaching. It was out of the top drawer! It was so gratifying to see the Auditorium full for every show, more importantly, however, to see everyone enjoying themselves. I reiterate here my congratulations to all involved: the Directors, cast and crew. Mrs Jill Avis and Mrs Helen Rigby could not have given more as the Directors. I trust they feel rewarded at the end of it all; they and all the pupils involved deserve this at least.

The U14 Rugby, Netball and Hockey Festival at the beginning of the season was very successful once again. We had some 20 schools participating this year and the most pleasing innovation was the introduction of the third sport, Hockey. We have found a niche in this tournament. It is gratifying that we now have schools contacting us for places and wanting to be part of it.

The First Rugby Team had the best season we've yet had at this level. Their fixture list was tougher than before, the results still better. They produced a 72% win rate (11 out of their 16 matches), drew 1 and lost only 4 matches, scored double the points of those against them (523 – 258), had an average points score of 32 per game and ran in 83 tries. The team won the annual Redhill Sevens tournament for the first time in all the years we've played there. We are just so proud of this team!

Doctrine aside, we've prayed for results like these! My congratulations go to the players and the coaches, Mr Fred Romijn and Mr Rudi Pretorius. Special mention must be made of the First Team sponsors, Cedar Isle BMW. Their generous support has been most welcome and we are pleased they have committed themselves to continuing with our team next year. We thank them most sincerely for putting faith in our team. Let's respond as a community by buying their cars!

A number of our rugby players gained places in provincial trials and acquitted themselves well there. Joshua Broomberg is to be congratulated on being selected for the SA Lynx team and will be touring the UK in October. Further selections have been to the Lynx 7-a-Side team: Joshua Broomberg, Jason Pearson, Sean Potgieter and Piero Saieva. I make that a good representation for putting only 7 on the field at a time!

The second girls Hockey team had a terrific season too, winning all but one of their games. The one they lost was the final game of the season and a friendly to boot. That just shows you can't win 'em all!

Our Equestrian team fared well in the recent Regionals: 7 of our 9 riders were selected to compete at that level and then all 7 (Fagan Abraham, Daisy Gidlow, Sebastian Gidlow, Justine Mackay, Megan Kirby, Monique Rose, Jodi Sonderup) were chosen to participate further in upcoming National Championships. We wish them well. In addition, Cassidy McKay has been competing exceptionally well in Endurance Riding.

In Debating, our team, consisting of Farai Mubaiwa, Joanne Tomlinson and Kathryn van der Plank, won the SAlIA Security Council UN Debate. Also, we placed 6th out of 80 in Gauteng Debating, with Viktoria Bruns and Farai Mubaiwa being selected for Gauteng trials. There's no debating our high standards here!

We participated in the Regional round of the Eskom Science Expo. This is a prestigious Science competition that is run a project basis. We came away with Bronze medals for Megan-Lee Kurzewski (Grade 8), Ashlinn McFarlane & Amy Rigby (Grade 8), Amy Freeman & Erin Warren-Hansen (Grade 9), Erin de Kock & Jodi Sonderup (Grade 9), Mpho Mudau (Grade 9), Nicole Niemann & Emma Stacey (Grade 9), Jamie-Lee Goosen (Grade 10); Silver medals for Ross Bentley & Michael van Wyk (Grade 8), Derron Nicholls (Grade 8), Ronsia Swart (Grade 9) and Kathryn van der Plank (Grade 10). Congratulations to these winners and the staff involved.

On the outreach front, the most recent project was the building of a prefabricated, two classroom school at Smile Kids in Diepsloot. The build was conducted by the Grade 8 and 9's, with some volunteering by more senior pupils. We are grateful to the team members from Create-Crete, Mr Michael Abraham in particular, for their invaluable design, expertise and overseeing of the project. I know from subsequent discussions what a difference the new building has made to that school, revolutionising it.

These activities mentioned have been only those that stood out for me. There has been such a general improvement in our various and broad-ranging activities this year that we have high hopes of the trend continuing in the future.

Mr Douglas Andrews

Mr Andrews unfortunately took his leave of HeronBridge at the end of July. He has accepted a promotion post, as Deputy-Head, in a local primary school. We congratulate him on his promotion and thank him for all he contributed to our College. He was particularly effective in our learning support programme and in counselling. He deserves the new opportunity and we wish him well in his new school.

Mission Trips

Our Chaplain, Mr Ingo van der Merwe, always has a busy time every August because it is such an ideal time of year for arranging mission trips. This month he leads two trips to Xai Xai in Mocambique and Mr Sean Muddiman one to a school in Grahamstown. These trips are so much at the heart of what we are as a school. I thank in advance all the teachers and pupils who will participate, not only wishing them well, but assuring them of our prayers. May God bless you all yourselves as much as he uses you to bring blessing.

Bok Fridays

We are going to support the Springboks in the World Cup by encouraging our pupils and staff to wear South African supporter clothing on Fridays and whenever our team plays. We shall not restrict this to rugby clothing only, any national South African clothing will be fine. We request that neatness still prevails and that jeans are worn with the supporter gear.

Estate News

I am disseminating to you here a report from Mr Grant Caw regarding some important developments on the property:

Just to keep you all in the picture I would like to outline some current plans.

We are planning to build the long awaited large school hall in the next few years. This will be situated below the main entrance circle. In order to do this we need to remove some of the older scruffy buildings which we have been using for various activities and clear this site for the new hall. This means that we need to replace these facilities elsewhere on the property. This involves the following :-

- Build a therapy block between the Prep and Pre Prep which will consist of the 2 bridging classes (Gr1 and Gr2) and 11 therapy rooms for the therapists. This will commence in August with M&M doing the building.
- Build new Estate workshops. These will be below Riverview next to the water storage tanks. We will be building these ourselves starting this week.
- Build new staff accommodation for emergency Estate staff and school staff who work peculiar hours like functions staff and bus drivers. This will be across the road at the top of the sports complex. We have already commenced here. This project will include toilets for the new fields as well.
- Build new Retreat Hall to replace Jacaranda Hall which will be demolished. Work has already commenced on this project. This is situated between the Retreat Dining Room and the Retreat Tuck shop.
- Demolish all buildings in the hall site and move all service etc
- Sort out temporary parking for Prep staff while the building is in progress
- Build sewerage processing plant for staff and sports toilets
- Build new septic tank for new hall and link to existing sewerage processing plant
- Raise levels between new hall and river and between Retreat Hall and river to ensure we are out of floodlines

Only then will we be able to commence the Hall itself and related facilities. Details of this project will be provided once we are ready to start building!

As you can see we have a busy time ahead. During all building operations there is some disruption but we have planned this process from the inception of this project and the building sites are all accessed from the river side so builders are never mixed up with school learners.

Construction does however involve a certain amount of noise and we will all have to do our best to work around this in order to benefit from the end product. If you have any concerns as we progress please feel free to email me and I will do my best to resolve the situation. We do take all precautions required to keep our learners safe.

We have one need to assist us with these projects and that is good building filling. The site for both the Retreat and School hall is on a pretty steep slope and in order make the best of the river frontage and remain within the flood line we need to fill the entire area surrounding these buildings so they flow down to the river. This requires a huge amount of filling which is hard to find especially at a reasonable rate. If anybody knows of anyone with several thousand cubic meters of filling looking for a new home please let me know. Either on my cell 082 450 8816 or via email: grant@heronbridge.co.za.

We trust that we will all be enjoying these facilities in the near future.

Regards,

Grant Caw
Estate and Projects Manager

As we face the upcoming August break, I trust (no, I pray) all our families will enjoy a good holiday period and be safe when travelling. I am mindful in particular of our Grade 12's as they take the opportunity (I trust!) for some consistent study in anticipation of their final examinations in October.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Klein', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Klein
College Head
4 August 2011